AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A transposon nucleic acid having two transposon end sequences, at least one of which comprises ~~comprising~~ a genetically engineered translation stop signal in three reading frames wherein one part of said translation stop signal is within a transposon end binding sequence ~~at least partly within a transposon end sequence~~ ~~recognised~~ recognized by a transposase, and another part of said translation stop signal is between said transposon end binding sequence and the distal end of said transposon end sequence.

2. (Currently Amended) The transposon nucleic acid according to claim 1, wherein said transposon nucleic acid contains a selectable marker and/or a reporter gene.

3. (Currently Amended) The transposon nucleic acid according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said one transposon end sequence is a Mu or Tn7 end sequence.

4. (Canceled).

5. (Currently Amended) The transposon nucleic acid according to claim 3, wherein ~~Mu end sequence~~ said transposon end binding sequence within said one Mu transposon end sequence is the Mu R-end binding sequence.

6. (Original) The transposon nucleic acid according to claim 5, wherein said transposon sequence is set forth in SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:5.

7. (Original) The transposon nucleic acid according to claim 3, wherein said transposon sequence is set forth in SEQ ID NO:7.

8. (Currently Amended) The transposon nucleic acid according to claim1, ~~wherein said transposon~~ further comprising ~~contains~~ a genetically engineered restriction enzyme site.

9. (Currently Amended) A ~~Method~~ method of producing a deletion derivative of a polypeptide coding nucleic acid comprising the steps of:

(a) performing a transposition reaction in the presence of a target nucleic acid containing ~~a polypeptide coding~~ a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide of interest ~~and~~ in the presence of a transposon containing a transposon nucleic acid having two transposon end sequences at least one of which comprises a genetically engineered translation stop signal ~~sequence~~ in three reading frames wherein one part of said translation stop signal is within a transposon end binding sequence ~~at least partly within a transposon binding end sequence~~ ~~recognised~~ recognized by a transposase, and another part of said translation stop signal is between said transposon end binding sequence and the distal end of said transposon end sequences and

(b) recovering ~~a~~ the target nucleic acid having said transposon incorporated in said ~~protein coding~~ polypeptide-encoding nucleic acid.

10. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 9 further comprising a step of (c) expressing said ~~protein coding~~ polypeptide-encoding nucleic acid having said transposon incorporated.

11. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 9 or 10, wherein said ~~transposon comprises a~~ transposon nucleic acid further ~~comprising~~ comprises ~~a genetically engineered translation stop signal in three reading frames at least partly within a transposon end sequence recognised by a transposase, wherein said transposon contains~~ a selectable marker and/or a reporter gene.

12. (Currently Amended) A kit for producing deletion derivatives of ~~polypeptide-coding~~ polypeptide-encoding nucleic acids comprising the transposon nucleic acid of claim 1.

13. (Cancelled)